



Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff

NEWS RELEASE

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David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, January 26, 2007

Milwaukee County Sheriff to Request Additional Standard Equipment For Officer Safety

MILWAUKEE, WI - Milwaukee County Sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. announced today that he will ask the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors to provide funding for protective head gear so that it may become standard equipment for deputies assigned to expressway patrol. The cost is estimated to be between \$2400 and \$6000.

According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, traffic accidents not guns are the biggest threat to law enforcement officers. In 2006, 73 officers were killed in traffic-related incidents, 54 were killed by gunfire. "This is an emerging threat to the safety of my officers who have freeway operation as their main assignment. I would be negligent in not providing this additional piece of standard operating equipment."

Currently, the Sheriff's Office is evaluating different models. "We'll field test several and let the officers decide what type to purchase," says Clarke.

Two weeks ago, a car struck Deputy Tim Johnson as he cleared an accident scene in the Stadium Interchange. He suffered severe head trauma. His condition was upgraded from *critical* to *serious but stable*. He remains in a coma.

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